

New York State Green Procurement Program
Response to Comments on

Proposed Updated Specification on Trash Bags

Background: An updated specification for trash bags was given tentative approval by the Executive Order 4 Interagency Committee on April 15, 2022. This was part of a package of cleaning products specifications designed to align with the work done on the new multi-state green cleaning contract (FAC118) led by the State of Massachusetts.

Commenting Entities: Vinyl Institute

Issues Raised by The Vinyl Institute During the Comment Period:

1. Remove the restriction on PVC in Trash Bags

Comments: The restriction on PVC in trash bags should be removed.

Response: The GreenNY Council has adopted similar restrictions on PVC in other product categories due to the hazards of the chemicals used to create PVC and concerns about end-of-life disposal. Vinyl chloride, which is polymerized to create PVC, is classified as a human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. In addition, ethylene dichloride, also known as 1,2-dichloroethane, is used in the creation of vinyl chloride and has been described as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen by the National Toxicology Program (NTP). Overall, PVC continues to be the lowest scoring plastic resin on The Plastics Scorecard, a tool developed by Clean Production Action to evaluate the chemical footprint of plastics.

Recommendation: Keep the restriction on PVC in trash bags.